COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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Doom 2099 ™ & ©1992 Marvel Comics, Inc, ARR.

Darker Image In the Spotlight

So far, Image comics has become famous by producing ongoing series and limited series starring relatively mainstream superheroes and super-teams. That's a pattern that Image is breaking in January with the release of ***Darker Image #1***, the premiere issue of a new Image anthology book that will introduce a variety of new concepts—many of which will go on to star in their own series later on if fan response is strong enough.

According to Image Comics, ***Darker Image*** is "an anthology of gritty, treacherous, and violent stories from the underbelly of the Image Universe." The first issue of ***Darker Image*** will introduce new heroes created by two Image founders ,Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld, and an Image newcomer, Sam Kieth.

Bloodwulf, Liefeld's creation, is an interplanetary bounty hunter who considers no mission too dangerous...if the pay is good enough. According to Image, "Bloodwulf makes a fitting addition to ***Darker Image***: he's violent, he's got a nasty sense of humor, and he doesn't appreciate cracks about his hair!... If you love Lobo—you'll hate Bloodwulf!"

Deathblow, a killer who discovers he has a fatal illness, is Jim Lee's new ***Darker Image*** hero. Hoping to find peace and salvation in the seclusion of a monastery, he instead becomes involved in a murderous scheme that forces him to once again become a killer.

Sam Kieth's Image debut hero is **The Maxx**, a hero who "is the underdog of the Image Group. He's not the strongest or the smartest of the Image heroes, but he is definitely the toughest!" The Maxx believes he's in the outback of Australia, fighting horrible monsters with the aid of a jungle girl; his companion believes him to be a mentally disturbed homeless man. "The problem is, who's correct?" The Maxx is written by William Messner-Loebs and illustrated by Kieth.

Darker Image is a monthly full-color twenty-four page comic priced at $2.50. ***Darker Image #1*** will be polybagged to include one of three different trading cards with each issue; each card will feature one of the three characters introduced in the premiere issue. A very limited number of black and white copies of ***Darker Image #1*** will be made available as well; check with your local comic shop for information on price and availability.

by Alex Kirkland

Doom's Day Is Coming... And We're Not Talking Superman Here!...

This month is a first of sorts for Dr. Doom—but not exactly. ***Doom 2099***, the third release in Marvel's 2099 line, marks the first time that Dr. Doom has starred in his own eponymous series, in this time or another. It's not the first time he has been the starring feature in a book, however...

It was just over twenty years ago when Dr. Doom was the starring feature in Marvel's anthology title ***Astonishing Tales;*** in that brief incarnation, Doom's solo exploits were illustrated by—among others—the late, great Wally Wood. Since all too few fans from 1970-71 are still collecting comics today, though, ***Doom 2099*** is, as far as today's readers are concerned, his first solo series.

But *is* it the Doom of today? Well, it certainly *seems* that today's Doom is the same character as the Doom who appears in the 2099 series...but what seems apparent isn't always true insofar as Doom is concerned. In John Francis Moore and Pat Broderick's series, Doom is no longer the dominant force of Latveria; instead, Tiger Wylde is the monarch of menace, and Doom becomes his victim. Of course, Doom has never been a victim for long...

Doom 2099 #1, a 32-page comic with a deluxe foil-stamped cover, is scheduled for November 21st release.

by Cliff Biggers

Impact Universe Heats Up In Crucible

Creating a new universe that is totally separate from a publisher's main-line universe is obviously harder than it might seem. Marvel tried it six and a half years ago and ultimately abandoned the project. A year and a half ago, DC offered its newest universe, the Impact Universe, and found fans slow to accept this world that is totally separate from the DC Universe. DC isn't giving up, though; instead, they're hoping to revive interest in the Impact Universe with a new, hard-edged limited series, ***Crucible.***

Crucible picks up some time after the events depicted in the final issues of the various Impact books. Of particular importance in this limited series are The Black Hood and The Comet; in fact, they are the focal points of ***Crucible,*** and their actions will determine the fate of the Impact Universe forever.

The Comet *apparently* disappeared at the end of his own series—but teenage Nate Cray, who currently wears the mantle of the Black Hood, has received a vision of the future that convinces him that the Comet is still alive. Even worse, he knows that the Comet is totally inhuman...and totally evil. Since the Crusaders are apparently missing, it's up to Cray to track down the Comet and save his world.

And, according to DC's Patricia Jeres, "Nate Cray will fail miserably."

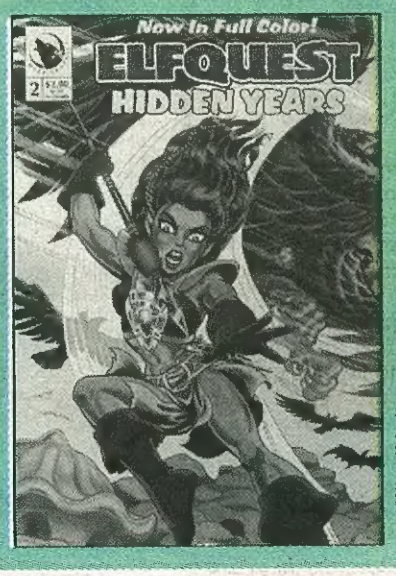
Crucible is a six-issue series written by Brian Augustyn and Mark Waid and pencilled by Joe Wotjkiewicz and Jimmy Palmiotti. Fan-favorite Joe Quesada supplies the book's layouts and covers. To entice readers back to the Impact Universe, DC is pricing the first issue of ***Crucible*** at 99¢; subsequent issues will be priced at $1.25. ***Crucible #1*** is scheduled for January 7th release.

by Cliff Biggers

Elfquest: The Hardcover Years

Thus far, Warp Graphics has made every issue of ***Elfquest*** available to the series' many fans in eight comprehensive trade paperback volumes. When the latest ***Elfquest*** series, ***Elfquest: The Hidden Years,*** is collected in book form late this year, however, fans won't find a trade paperback awaiting them; instead, ***Elfquest: The Hidden Years Volume One*** is scheduled for late December release as a very handsome—and very affordable—hardcover.

The first volume of ***Elfquest: The Hidden Years*** won't carry an *Elfquest Graphic Novel Volume Nine* imprint; according to publisher Richard Pini, that's a deliberate decision. "Strictly speaking, the ***Hidden Years*** stories don't follow the straight time-line of the previous eight volumes, so we decided to let ***Hidden Years*** have its own series of books—and their will be a series!"



In a field in which hardcovers are usually priced significantly higher than trade paperbacks, Warp Graphic is bucking the trend; ***Elfquest: The Hidden Years Volume One*** will be affordably priced at $19.95, only a few dollars more than the traditional Elfquest trade paperback price. This hardcover edition is the first in a series of hardcovers from Warp Graphics and its subsidiary imprint, Father Tree Press. "We've been requested for years, by collectors and libraries alike, to produce a hardcover version of our books," Pini said. "We're currently investigating reissuing all eight previous volumes in hardcover as well, but ***Hidden Years*** gives us the opportunity to start a new title off with a bang..."

While ***Elfquest: The Hidden Years Volume One*** will be available in hardcover, there will *not* be a signed limited edition of the book. "I am looking out for the ***Elfquest*** collector who wants a more durable book," Pini explained, "rather than the collector who wants to speculate... This is the perfect way not only to close out this year, but to ring in 1993, which is Elfquest's fifteenth anniversary."

Elfquest: The Hidden Years Volume One, a $19.95 book featuring heavy full-color laminated board covers, is scheduled for late December release.

by Lanny Lathem

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™
11 • 11 • 92
From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
Printed on 100% Recycled Newsprint

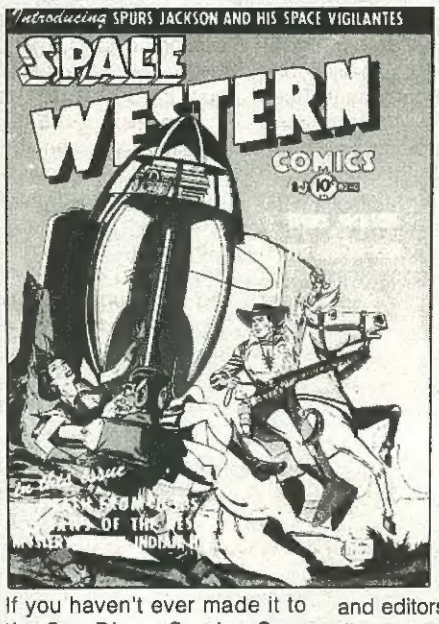
We're Goin ' Back In Time...

A couple of decades ago, two of the more popular illustrators of sexy comics were *Jeff Jones* and *Gray Morrow.* Jones' work could be found each month in the pages of **National Lampoon**, as well as a variety of men's magazines; Morrow's exotic art appeared in men's magazines as well in sophisticated comic anthologies. Now Fantagraphics' Eros Comics is collecting some of the best of both creators in two new series. **The Jones Touch #1,** a 24-page full color comic, is priced at $2.95; according to Fantagraphics, this book contains nudity, but no strong sexual content. **Gray Morrow's Amora #1,** a $2.95 black and white comic, also contains some nudity; both books are, according to Fantagraphics, "R-rated." Look for 'em both in December.

Death Has Its Limits

For the past couple of weeks, **CSN** has told you about the upcoming Skybox **Doomsday: Death of Superman Trading Cards.** Well, here's a very important new tidbit of information: Skybox is limiting the production on this series to only 8000 cases total, making these cards among the rarest produced for the comic market! If you haven't already made arrangements with your local comic shop to reserve a box of the **Doomsday Cards,** you might want to do so ASAP...if you choose not to, don't say we didn't warn you!...

Oddball Comics?! Shaw 'Nuff!



™ &©1992 Scott Shaw!

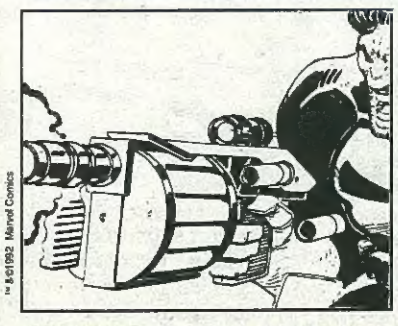
If you haven't ever made it to the San Diego Comics Con, then you've certainly missed what is quite possibly the most entertaining event in which a comics fan can participate. The convention features dozens of entertaining events for fans old and young. Those of us who have been around long enough to remember when comics were a bit less serious than they are today make it a point to attend *Scott Shaw!*'s slide show featuring some of the most offbeat comics covers in history; this walk through the less-traveled path that parallels memory lane is always good for more than a few laughs and several comments of "I remember that!"

If you haven't made it to San Diego to see Shaw!'s slide show, though, you don't have to feel left out of the fun. Not with Kitchen Sink and Scott Shaw! compiling a thirty-six card set entitled **Scott Shaw!'s Oddball Comics**. Not only do you get the zany, offbeat covers (you'll find yourself wondering what the publishers and editors were thinking when they approved some of these wacky works of art), but you also get text by Shaw! himself, which is often even more entertaining than the covers. Where else can you enjoy such comics classics as **Ricky and Debby In Sardineland, Space Western,** and **Manuel Pacifico—Tuna Fisherman**?

Oddball Comics, a $10.95 boxed set scheduled for December release, will feature a cover by Shaw! and **Garbage Pail Kids** artist *John Pound.*

Looking Back...And Looking Ahead

For the past couple of years, **The Marvel Year In Review** has offered fans an imaginative magazine-format look back at the important events of the past calendar year. This year, though, Marvel is taking a different approach, offering what Marvel's *Kevin Tang* describes as "nothing less than a satiric feast! For instance, an in-depth look at Iron Man examines all the diseases ever-illin' Tony would have contracted if he hadn't died first..." Other articles offer a look at some of the concepts that didn't quite make the 2099 cut, including Squirrel Girl 2099. And of course, there's an article on that landmark hero who's celebrating his thirtieth anniversary...and everyone knows we're talking about Ant-Man here, right? **The Marvel Year In Review '92,** a $3.95 magazine, is scheduled for December 17th release.



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On January 7th, Marvel looks in the other direction as it offers a second 48-page $3.95 magazine, **Marvel Preview '93.** This magazine offers a look at major events planned for the first four months of 1993, including new hero debuts, a new **Infinity** series, Spider-Man crossovers, Avengers and X-Men 30th-anniversary celebrations, and more. This is the first in a planned series of **Marvel Previews**; *Lee Weeks* supplies the cover illustration.

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Editorial Office:
2339 Milstead Circle
Marietta, GA 30066
fax (404) 973-6949

Business Office:
931 Forest Park Lane
Suwanee, GA 30174
(404) 339-7446

Editors
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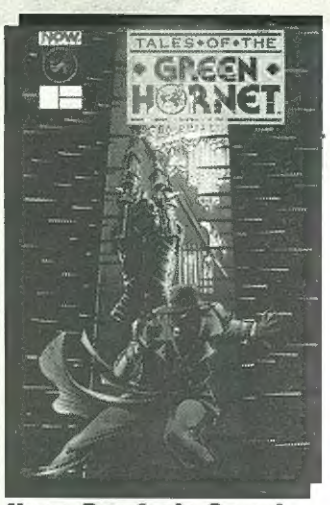

Norm Breyfogle Cover!

TALES OF THE GREEN HORNET #1

Anniversary Special
Hologram Trading Card!
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Written by James Van Hise
Illustrated by Sal Velluto
Cover by Norm Breyfogle

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QUICKSHOTS

To The Winner Go The Spoils...

Have you ever wondered what happened after the final panels of all those superhero slugfests? When the battle was over and the winner was decided, what did he get for his troubles? Well, according to *Ben Edlund*, creator of **The Tick,** there are "rewards that the Super-Hero by-laws insist upon in circumstances like these." And since The Tick has defeated Barry (formerly known as "The Tick"), then "The Tick gets all of Barry's stuff! The cutting-edge techno-marvels of Barry's 'Tick Crevice' are now The Tick's to command! The Sonar/Radar Defense Perimeter™, the Flaming-Spewing Arachni-Cycle™, the impossibly-packed-yet-stylish Utility Belt™..."—all of them become The Tick's property, and he's eager to test 'em! So naturally, Edlund obliges him by giving him the perfect opportunity as a cornucopia of The Tick's old villains return. You can follow the action in **The Tick #12,** a $2.75 comic slated for December release.

Crash Landing In Store In Hawkworld?...

It sounds like something pretty ominous is in store for Katar and Shayera... **Hawkworld #31,** part five of the six-part "Flight's End" storyline, pits the Hawks against Count Viper; while the good guys are trying to close down the source of the illegal lycanthropic drug "Hairballs," Count Viper has very ominous plans for the duo. DC isn't telling just what's in store in January's **Hawkworld #32,** but DC's *Patricia Jeres* does confirm that "Viper has other plans for the Hawks, setting the stage for tragic events that will devastate readers in issue #32." *John Ostrander, Tim Truman,* and *Tim Bradstreet* present the whole story on December 17th.

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An Unread-Letter Day

Beginning on December 10th, fans can read all about the illiteracy plague that's sweeping Gotham City; alas, the residents of Gotham aren't able to enjoy that same privilege... As it turns out, the Scarecrow is behind the illiteracy plague—and one of his victims is Robin! It's up to Batman to find him and uncover a cure for the plague before the Boy Wonder is left illiterate forever. The story begins in **Batman Adventures #4** and continues into #5, courtesy of Puckett, Rader, and Burchett.

Doomsday Draws A Big Crowd

Wow! Response for the **Doomsday: Death of Superman** storyline is so phenomenally strong that DC has already announced that they'll have to go back to press to produce second printings of several of the books. To guarantee that fans don't miss out on the storyline because they can't find vital installments of the series, DC is rushing this second printings into comic shops almost immediately upon the release of the first printings; never before in comics history has demand required such rapid-fire reprinting. It looks like DC will have to do second printings of virtually every installment of the storyline leading up to the death of the Man of Steel in **Superman #75**; furthermore, demand has been so strong for the collectors' set of this landmark issue that DC will quite likely run out of bagged sets before every store's reorders can be filled. With all the bonuses this set is going to include, the **Superman #75 Collectors' Set** is going to be the real gem of this storyline, so don't miss it! (By the way, it's easy to tell if a DC comic is a second printing; to make sure that fans can identify them, DC puts a Roman numeral II in the upper left-hand corner of the cover.)

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MARVEL comics

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PUNISHER #75!
Double-sized issue sports an embossed cover with metallic ink!

SPIDER-MAN #31!
Concludes "Return to the Mad Dog Ward!"

MORBIUS #6!
The battle between Morbius and Basilisk continues!

MARVEL AGE #121!
Check out this happy, happy issue for the latest Ren & Stimpy info!

Ren & Stimpy™ & © 1992 Nickelodeon

DOOM 2099 #2!
Doom continues his fight to regain Latveria!

SLAPSTICK #4!
Daredevil and Captain America also guest star in the conclusion to this slap-happy series!

HULK #402!
The return of Doc Samson an...
...look out! It's the Juggernaut!

MARVEL TALES #270!
Re-introducing the Puma!

Marvel Comics Shipping The Week Of December 15th

NOVEMBER HOT PICKS

by cliff biggers

It's here—November is the month that Superman dies. While he may be dying in the pages of his own comic, he certainly isn't dying on the comic racks; in fact, for the first time in the history of ***CSN,*** 20% of this month's Hot Picks are Superman related. If there's ever been a month in which the stalwart Man of Steel deserved your attention, this is it! Of course, there are twenty other Hot Picks that you might want to keep an eye open for, too...

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ACTION COMICS 684
SUPERMAN: MAN OF STEEL 19
SUPERMAN 75
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 489

Death claims the Man of Steel this month—and anyone who's ever enjoyed the exploits of the medium's first superhero will want to see how it happens. ***Action #684*** and ***Superman: Man of Steel #19*** pave the way for the final to-the-death confrontation with Doomsday; if either one of these issues can be found on the stands a day after their arrival, it'll be a miracle. ***Superman #75*** is the issue; while orders for this book are phenomenal, demand will be even more phenomenal, so be advised that you don't want to pass this one by in hopes of picking it up later... it probably won't be there! ***Adventures of Superman #489*** kicks off the eight-part "Funeral for a Friend" storyline that shows how the DC Universe reacts after Superman's death; it's another must-have. This is comics history in the making; you certainly won't want to be left out. *(DC, $1.25/$2.50)*

november's overlooked sizzler

iron man 288

Iron Man is one of the oldest Marvel superheroes; unfortunately, he's often overlooked by fans eager to find the latest new title from current fan-favorite creators. That's a shame, because Len Kaminski and Kevin Hopgood have been steadily improving ***Iron Man***, stirring up a good bit of excitement and interest with the recent "Death of Tony Stark" storyline. What made this one different is that fans knew from the very beginning that Tony Stark's death was a hoax—but the characters themselves were kept in the dark, making for some interesting plot twists. Fans who remember Iron Man in his glory days should take a look at the latest issue, ***Iron Man #288,*** which paves the way for Tony Stark's return to the Iron Man role; it's a fine example of the solid work that Kaminski and Hopgood have been doing to return ***Iron Man*** to the upper echelon of Marvel titles. *(Marvel, $1.25)*

DOOMSDAY: DEATH OF SUPERMAN TRADING CARDS

In light of the historic events occurring in the Superman family of comics this month, Skybox has put together a very special commemorative set of trading cards. This 100-card series depicts the coming of Doomsday, the battle, the death, and the aftermath; this is a great way to enjoy a sneak preview of what's coming up in the Superman titles in the next few weeks. For the hardcore collector, these'll be must-haves because of the variant artwork featured on some of the cards; there'll

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WHO WILL DIE?

THE SILVER SURFER™
GIANT-SIZED 75TH ISSUE EXTRAVAGANZA!

MARVEL COMICS
WRITER: RON MARZ
PENCILER: RON LIM
INKER: TOM CHRISTOPHER
GIANT SIZE ISSUE!
SILVER HOLOFOIL EMBOSSED COVER!
THE SHATTERING CONCLUSION TO THE HERALD ORDEAL!

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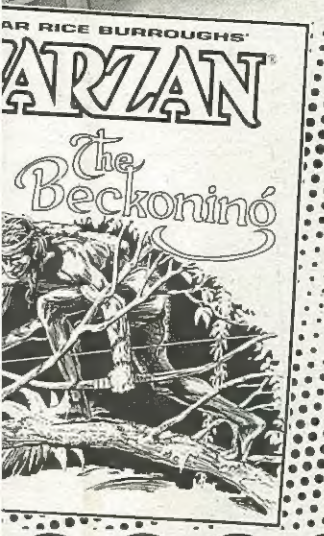
CSN HOT PICKS



be art in here that you won't find anywhere else. *(Skybox, $1.25/pack)*

BLOODSHOT 1

Valiant introduces comics' first chromium cover; you couldn't miss this stunner even if you wanted to (and why on earth would you want to?). ***Bloodshot*** is a complex, well-crafted comic aimed at the fans of harder-edged books like ***Punisher;*** Valiant fans have already had a chance to meet this hero in the pages of ***Eternal Warrior #4***, and they liked what they saw. Judging from advance orders, comic fans all over the country are going to be looking for this stunning Valiant first issue...and since orders were even higher than Valiant expected, don't be surprised if there are a few allocations... If you saw how quickly ***HARD Corps #1*** disappeared from the shelves, you'll know what to expect with this sizzler. *(Valiant, $3.50)*

DOOM 2099 1

Is he the Doom of today or isn't he? Ultimately, sales won't be affected either way; this is likely to be the second-hottest 2099 title of the year, right behind ***Spider-Man 2099.*** Doom has been an integral part of the Marvel Universe for over thirty years now, so it's only appropriate that he should play an equally important role in Marvel's newest universe. *(Marvel, $1.75)*

EX-MUTANTS 1

Image Comics has had a wonderful effect on Malibu's other imprints: fans are starting to pay attention to all the Malibu books, and they're discovering that there are some first-rate titles under the Malibu logo. ***Ex-Mutants*** is the latest in the Malibu renaissance—and since it also ties in with a major Sega Genesis game release, it's going to attract a lot of new fans who want to find out just where the game came from. ***Ex-Mutants*** was one of the biggest sellers of the first black-and-white explosion of 1986; it looks like the first color issue of the new ***Ex-Mutants*** will be even more successful. *(Malibu, $2.50)*

HARBINGER TPB

Have you checked on the prices of ***Harbinger #1*** lately? Have you tried to locate a copy of ***Harbinger #0***? Have you discovered that finding ***Harbinger #4*** is all but impossible? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then you know why this trade paperback is going to be the month's hottest reprint item. Not only does it offer the tens of thousands of new ***Harbinger*** fans an affordable way to enjoy the early issues, but it makes it possible for everyone to enjoy a copy of the hard-to-acquire ***Harbinger #0***, which is included with the package at no additional charge. *(Valiant, $9.95)*

art of the month

sin city tpb

LOBO LIMITED EDITION STATUE

So why is a *statue* on our hot picks list? Well, we'll give you the chance to figure it out yourself—why don't you check around and find out just how much a ***Sandman Statue*** goes for nowadays (if you can find one at all)? We'll wait...

Oh, you're back? Took a while to track one down, didn't it—and when you did, you saw that they easily command a $200-$300 pricetag nowadays, right? Well, the same sculptor responsible for the ***Sandman Statue***—Randy Bowen—has designed the ***Lobo Statue***, which depicts everyone's favorite killer curmudgeon in action, complete with his favorite "toys." The manufacturing run on this one is even *smaller* than the run on the ***Sandman Statue,*** so it'll be even harder to find in a few weeks. For the Lobo fan, this is the ultimate collectible. *(DC, $129.95)*

WHEN HIERONYMOUS JONES UNDERWENT AN EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT TO RESTORE HIS LOST PERSONALITY, HE GOT A LOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR.

I LOVE HER, BUT SHE DESERVES A WHOLE MAN!
THERE'S...
INDUBITABLY
WATCH IT, SHYSTER!
DON, THE ROMANTIC LEFT ARM
BUCKLEY, THE INTELLECTUAL HEAD
BOGIE, THE HARD-BOILED RIGHT ARM
YOU'RE ALL JUST JEALOUS!
TEE HEE!
THOUGH I AM JUST A PIECE OF LEG, I AM ALSO A LEG OF PEACE!
TOOTSIE, THE SEXY LEFT LEG
JAKE, THE NARCISSISTIC TORSO
KIK-LI, THE KUNG-FU MASTER RIGHT LEG

TOGETHER, THEY'RE...

COUNTERPARTS

A STORY IN THREE PARTS
A CHARACTER IN SIX

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY STEFAN PETRUCHA
ILLUSTRATED BY BARRY CRAIN

TUNDRA

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FIRST ISSUE AVAILABLE JANUARY 1993 ORDER FROM YOUR RETAILER TODAY

ROBIN 3000

WRITTEN BY BYRON PREISS
ART BY P. CRAIG RUSSELL
PRESTIGE FORMAT

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MAGNUS: ROBOT FIGHTER 21

Big changes come to ***Magnus*** this month as new writer John Ostrander takes over the Robot Fighters' writing honors. Ostrander has demonstrated quite a penchant for telling science-fictional tale in ***Grimjack*** and ***Hawkworld,*** among others; look for him to really shake up Magnus, which plateaued a few issues back. There are major changes coming in Magnus's world, which makes this a great time to try the title once again if you haven't checked it out recently. (Of course, since it's a Valiant title, that in itself all but guarantees that it's going to be hot in just a few months—but this one is going to be even hotter than average.) *(Valiant, $2.25)*

OPERATION URBAN STORM

This special Image Comics one-shot is a benefit book to raise funds for the Rebuild LA project; it's likely to be one of the hardest Image titles to find because it didn't get the major roll-out attention that most Image first issues generate. Most of the big names of Image are contributing to the book's contents, so no fan is going to want to be without it. *(Image, $1.95)*

PITT 1

If you missed out on Dale Keown's great work on ***The Incredible Hulk,*** shame on you; Keown is one of the most exciting and stylish artists working today. You won't find his art in the pages of Hulk any longer, though; he's moved on to Image Comics, where he offers fans his own sf-hero title, ***Pitt.*** This is the story of a monstrous alien creature, a young Earth boy, and a cosmic conflict relocated to Earth. The story is refreshingly different, and the art is pure Keown; no one draws massive monsters any better than he. Oh, yeah—it's an Image premiere issue, so we don't need to tell you to grab it while you can, do we?... *(Image, $1.95)*

PREDATOR VS. MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER 2

The second half of this fall's big crossover title features the battle between Magnus and the Predator for the ownership of the X-O helmet. This series, written by John Ostrander and illustrated by Lee Weeks, offers the same edge-of-your-seat excitement found in the pages of last year's ***Batman-Vs. Predator*** storyline in a futuristic setting; it's likely to sell as well as ***Predator*** and ***Magnus*** combined. *(Dark Horse/Valiant, $2.95)*

ROBIN 3000 1 & 2

Most robins head south for the winter—but this Robin is heading into the comic shops, where he's sure to find an eager audience awaiting his arrival. ***Robin 3000***, the first Elseworlds story to focus on a character other than Batman, is a two-part bi-weekly prestige-format series featuring the all-star artwork of P. Craig Russell, one of the most respected illustrators working in the field today. This rare Russell foray into the superhero genre stars the Robin of the future in action against the villains responsible for the death of his world's Batman. Strong story by Byron Preiss and great art by P. Craig Russell—sounds like a hot combination for sure, doesn't it?... *(DC, $4.95@)*

ROBIN III: THE CRY OF THE HUNTRESS 1

ROBIN III: THE CRY OF THE HUNTRESS 2

...and if *one* Robin isn't enough for you, hows-about *two*? Alternating its biweekly release schedule with ***Robin 3000, Robin III*** stars the Robin of the contemporary DC Universe, teamed up with the Huntress to battle a Russian crime-boss and his chief enforcer, the KGBeast. This series is produced by the team responsible for the two prior super-hot ***Robin*** miniseries: Chuck Dixon and Tom Lyle. As with the earlier ***Robin*** series, ***Robin III*** will feature special cover enhancements designed to be real attention-getters: in this case, it's a special motion-enhanced cover that'll have to be seen to be believed. For fans on a budget, there'll also be a standard-format version sans enhancements—but once you see the spiffy deluxe collectors version, you'll have to have it. *(DC, $2.50 deluxe/$1.25 standard)*

SHOWCASE '93 1

Think of it as "DC Comics Presents" and you have an idea what to expect from this exciting new anthology series. The lead story will always feature a member of the B atman family; the first issue kicks off a great new Catwoman four-parter by Doug Moench and Ed Hannigan. Each 48-page issue will also feature two back-up stories starring members of the DC Universe who don't currently appear in their own regular series; this time around, it's Blue Devil and Cyborg. Judging from the felonious feline's following, though, Catwoman alone could make this one a sizzler; everything else's just gravy... *(DC, $1.95)*

SIN CITY TPB

Frank Miller's ***Sin City,*** the most popular feature to appear thus far in ***Dark Horse Presents,*** gets trade paperback treatment this month; even if you already have the installments in ***DHP,*** you'll want it in a single volume so you can read this fast-paced, *noir*-styled story in the format that suits it best. ***Sin City*** brings Miller back to the hard-edged crime story he seemed to enjoy so much in his Daredevil run; this time around,

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though, the crimes take place in a much more brutal, much uglier world. *(Dark Horse, $15.00)*

STRYFE'S STRIKE FILE 1

The **X-Ecutioner's Song** storyline running through the various mutant books this fall is the most successful X-Men crossover series in years, and stores are wisely stocking heavily on all parts of that storyline; it's very possible that ***Stryfe's Strike File,*** a complement to that storyline, is going to be a bit rarer, though, since most stores ordered fewer of this one-shot than they did of the twelve-part extravaganza. ***Stryfe's Strike File*** features new art, lotsa background information on everyone's favorite mutants, and a few hints about events upcoming in the various X-books. (And while they didn't *quite* make the top two dozen, ***X-Men #16, X-Force #18, X-Factor #86,*** and ***Uncanny X-Men #296*** each deserve honorable-mention status on this month's hot picks list; every installment of the X-Ecutioner's Song storyline has been quite popular, and these will be no exception). *(Marvel, $1.75)*

TARZAN: THE BECKONING 1

Tom Yeates, the artist-writer of this new ***Tarzan*** miniseries, is quite possibly the most perfect Tarzan artist since Roy G. Krenkel; he manages to capture the grace and strength of Tarzan more than anyone else working today. Yeates' version of Tarzan seems visually influenced by those stunning Krenkel and Frazetta covers and frontispieces from the old Ace F-editions; you may find that you have to read the book a second time because you were so distracted by the art the first time around. It's worth reading as well as looking at; this modern-day tale of ivory poaching offers a superlative interpretation of Tarzan's character. *(Malibu, $2.50)*

VAMPIRELLA 1

Vampi's miniseries was so successful that she's back this fall in her own ongoing series—and this time around, she's earned full-color treatment (with lots of red, of course). ***Vampirella***'s first multi-part storyline, "The Dracula War," takes Vampi to Europe, where she will face the most (in)famous vampire of all. The first six issues of ***Vampirella*** also include a special coupon; collect 'em all and you can redeem 'em for a free Dave Stevens limited edition Vampirella print. You've seen how coupon bonuses have boosted demand for various Image and Valiant titles; look for the trend to continue here. *(Harris, $2.95)*

WILDCATS TRADING CARDS

Topps' entry into the Image Cards market is quite an auspicious debut: a hundred card series featuring both retouched and new art by Jim Lee, as well as WildCATs art by some of the biggest names working in comics today. This goes far beyond the rather basic reprint-art card lines that Image fans have had to content with thus far. These are high-quality cards in a deluxe format, with oodles o' bonus chase cards and autograph cards randomly inserted. *(Topps, $1.25/pack)*

WITCHING HOUR 1

Anne Rice's novels have helped create an entire mini-industry of Anne Rice adaptations, each of which has highly successful. Now, the only unadapted Anne Rice horror novel, ***The Witching Hour,*** comes to comics in a thirteen-part adaptation (what an appropriate number!) jointly published by Millennium and Comico. Rice fan will have to have it—and with the renewed interest in horror comic, this one might be the most successful Rice adaptation yet! *(Millennium/Comico, $2.50)*

Last Week *CSN* featured an exclusive interview with Clive Barker about his plans for his Barker-verse for Marvel.

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Miss a Week and You Miss a Lot!

WHO'S WHO UPDATE '93 VOLUME 1

Meet the new stars in the firmament... and catch up on the major changes—in the same great loose-leaf format as before!

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NIGHTWING POSTER #1

Titans favorite—Nightwing—by fan favorite Art Thibert, artist of the upcoming NIGHTWING miniseries.

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